dealt by the authorities through measures including, but not limited to denial of entry at the port of dis-embarkment and/or re-shipment.

Based on a complaint received from the domestic industry, antidumping duty has also been imposed on such imports.

Protection to domestic dairy industry

977. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in post quantitative restrictions (ORs) era the Indian markets arc flooded with imported milk products;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in order to protect Rs. 5000 crores domestic dairy industry, some drastic steps arc needed;

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard and the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) Dairy products arc classified under Exim Heads 04.01 to 04.06 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997—2002. Total import of dairy products under these headings during the period 1999—2000 was Rs. 180.4 crore. The imports declined to 48.2 crore during the first 11 month of the year 2000-2001. The total imports constitute an insignificant percentage of domestic production of dairy products.

(c) and (d) The government has successfully renegotiated the existing 0% bound rate of duty on milk powder (as classified under Exim Code Nos. 0402.10 and 0402.21 of ITC(HS) Classifications of Export and Import Items, 1997—2002) to 60% with a provision for allowing import of 10,000 MT of these products and a concessional duty rate of 15% under Article XXVIII of GATT. The increase in duty was implemented last year. Subsequent to the increase the import of skimmed milk powder decreased from Rs. 97.54 crore during the year 1999-2000 to Rs. 3.95 crore during first 11 month of the year 2000-2001. Recently, imports of milk and milk products have been made subject to a sanitary import permit to be issued by Deptt. of Animal Husbandry and Dairying as per the provisions of Livestock Importation Act, 1898. The Government is constantly monitoring the

imports and is determined to ensure that imports do not cause any serious injury to the domestic producers.

Awareness of Indian companies on WTO

978. PROF. (SHRIMATI) BHARATI RAY: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Companies did not seem to be fully awakened to the impact of post WTO atmosphere and Indian big business houses seem to be helpless in combating the situation in India as well as globally; and

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Government have taken a number of measures for building awareness amongst the various stakeholders including the Indian companies about the various provisions of the WTO Agreements as well as the various challenges and the opportunities arising out of the WTO agreements. A number of sensitization workshops, meetings, seminars and consultations have been undertaken with the representatives of Indian industry. The various WTO related papers and India's proposals submitted to WTO have been placed on the web-site of the Department of Commerce to facilitate the awareness and consultation process.

In order to protect the domestic producers from the dumping and subsidized imports, the Government have created a Directorate of Anti-dumping and Countervailing Duties headed by a Designated Authority. The Directorate takes action on the basis of complaints from the affected domestic industry and in some exceptional cases even on a *suo-moto* basis. Further to protect the domestic industry from any surge in imports causing or threatening to cause serious injury to it, the Government have established a Directorate of Safeguards to investigate such cases and recommend imposition of Safeguard duties. The Government have also set in a "Coordination Cell" for dealing with the Anti-dumping and Anti-subsidy cases initiated against the Indian exports, headed by the Director General Foreign Trade (DGFT). This Cell coordinates with the concerned officials, agencies and the affected exporters for effectively defending